



# Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission

## **Conservation and Agriculture Commission Charge:**

To advocate for conservation and agricultural issues before non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions and residents; recommend lands for preservation; provide information and guidance on protecting natural resources and agricultural viability; increase awareness and promote the value of natural resources and agriculture; and serve as conduit between local farmers, government and non-farmers.

***Tax deductible donations may be made to the Town of Lebanon Open Space Account.***

**Fall 2016  
Volume VI**

## **Conservation and Agriculture Commission Activities**

The Conservation and Agriculture Commission works to fulfill its charge established by Town Ordinance in 2012.

The Commission is involved in land preservation projects and advises Town boards, commissions and residents on conservation and agricultural issues.

The Commission also partners with likeminded organizations such as Connecticut Farmland Trust, Joshua's Trust, and State and Federal agencies to meet residents' needs.

Land preservation projects completed in 2016 include Oweneco Farm on Exeter Road and Scooter Hill Farm on Tobacco Street.

The Commission maintains Commons Hill Trail and Five-Mile-Rock Trail and monitors several conservation easements.

We advocate for property owners looking to preserve their land, seek preservation funds and are available as a resource on matters of protecting our rich natural resources and preserving agriculture!

## **Oweneco Farm: PRESERVED**

Few farms epitomize the beauty and legacy that agriculture can provide like Lebanon's Oweneco Farm. Spanning 300 acres and divided by scenic Route 207, Oweneco Farm is Lebanon's premiere gateway farm from Hebron and has been in the same family since 1701.

The town worked with the Grabber family over several years to assist them to reach their goal of preserving their family farm. The town provided appraisals and preservation scenarios as the family worked through each to reach an acceptable

succession plan focused on preservation.

Without Lebanon's partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture it is unlikely that preservation of Oweneco Farm could have been accomplished.

According to Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky, "*Adding Oweneco Farm to Lebanon's significant number of preserved farms is another example of the town's commitment to maintaining and growing its vibrant agricultural community.*"



Oweneco Farm was deemed an integral part of Lebanon's community character. With planning and limited municipal investment Lebanon is allowing agriculture as a land use to flourish which will help maintain the town's unique community character.

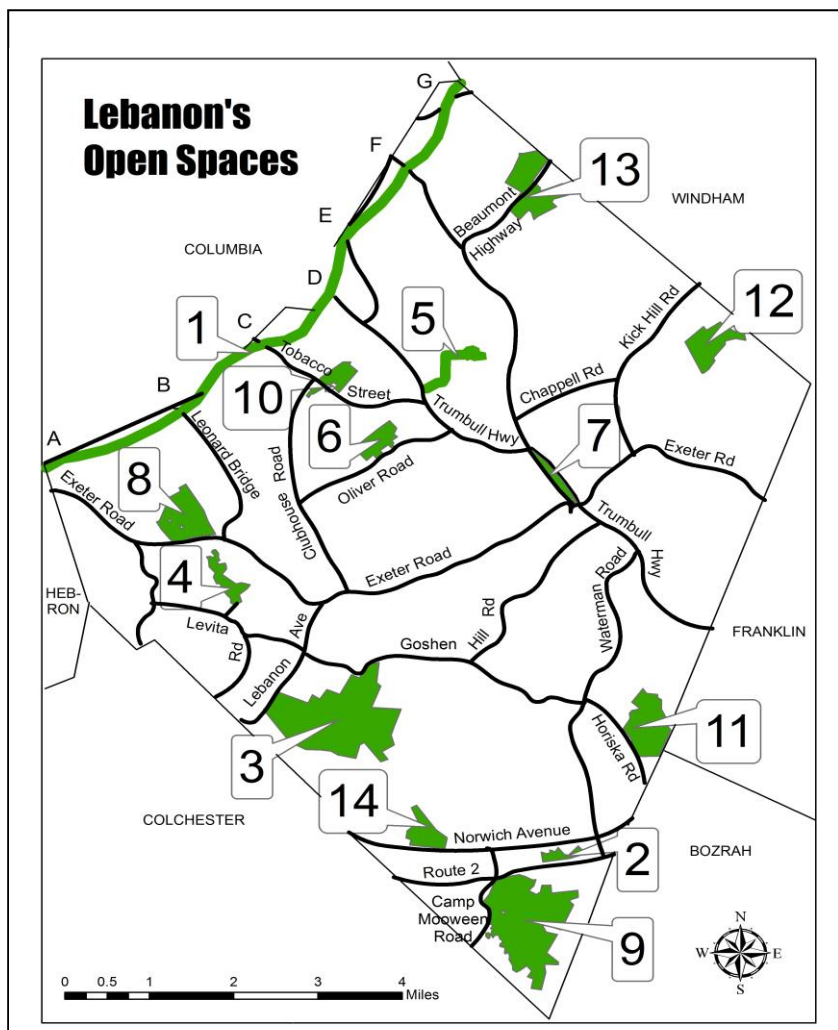
## Lebanon's Open Spaces

In addition to Lebanon's scenic vistas and 5,000 acres of permanently preserved private farmland, there are 2,500 acres of pristine open spaces where the public is encouraged to explore nature. The properties listed below are open to the public for walking, hiking, picnicking and exploring! Please leave these properties in the same or better condition as found. Where "hunting" is permitted please be sure to wear blaze orange in Oct.-Dec.

1. **Airline Trail State Park**. 7.5-mile long, old railway bed stone dust trail running through woods/farmland. Runs between East Hampton-Willimantic with multiple trailheads in Lebanon (see map). Walk, jog, bike or horseback.
2. **Bartlett Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**. 687-acre DEEP-managed wildlife, hunting, stream fishing. Many trails, some well-tended. Horseback riding permitted. Access/parking off Goshen Hill Road & Lebanon Ave.
3. **Barstow Road**. State and town owned property along the Yantic River. Fishing.
4. **Brewster Pond**. Access from Levita Road to Old Meetinghouse Road. Non-motorized boating and fishing.
5. **Commons Hill Trail**. 2.5-mile roundtrip hike on blazed trail with great views. Accessible on Trumbull Highway at Liberty Hill cemetery, via old Schalk Road. Trail map online or Town Hall.
6. **Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (The Whitney Forest)**. 85-acre property with 1.5-mile trial loop that acts as a forestry educational resource for all ages. See [ctwoodlands.org](http://ctwoodlands.org) for map. Access on Oliver Rd.
7. **Lebanon Town Green**. 1.5 mile flat stone dust path around Connecticut's largest and historic town green. Visit the museums along the Green (War Office, Governor Jonathan Trumbull House, Jonathan Trumbull Junior. House, Lebanon Historical Society). Access/parking at Jonathan Trumbull Library and Alden Tavern parking lot.
8. **Lake Williams Pond**. 176-acre DEEP-managed newly created state park. Non-motorized boating, hiking permitted. Access/parking off Exeter Road at southern tip of lake.
9. **Mooween State Park**. 577-acre DEEP-managed state park that includes Red Cedar Lake. Fishing, non-motorized boating, hunting, hiking. Access/parking on Camp Mooween Road at head of Red Cedar Lake.
10. **Nature Conservancy (Carnwarth) Property**. 66-acres with no trails. Located on both sides of Tobacco St.
11. **Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**. 207-acre DEEP-managed for wildlife and hunting area. Excellent for viewing wildlife with some well-tended trails. Access/parking off Horiska Road.
12. **Pigeon Swamp Preserve**. Joshua's Trust provides 136-acre area rich in variety of natural features with wetlands, waterbodies and good trails. Access/parking off Pigeon Swamp Road in Windham.
13. **Pomeroy State Park**. 200-acre DEEP-forested state park. No entrance but access from Beaumont Highway via utility right-of-way near Willimantic line. Hunting, Hiking.
14. **Savin Lake**. DEEP-managed lake that permits fishing & non-motorized boating. Access/parking off Norwich Ave.

**The town encourages residents to visit these special sites and enjoy Lebanon's open spaces!**

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**KEY**

- 1 Airline Trail State Park  
*Trailheads*
  - a. Lebanon Avenue (Hebron)
  - b. Leonards Bridge Road
  - c. Chesbro Bridge Road
  - d. Trumbull Highway (Columbia)
  - e. Cook Hill Road
  - f. Village Hill Road
  - g. Kingsley Road
- 2 Barstow Road
- 3 Bartlett Brook WMA
- 4 Brewster Pond
- 5 Commons Hill Trail
- 6 Connecticut Forest & Parks Assoc.
- 7 Lebanon Town Green
- 8 Lake Williams Pond
- 9 Mooween State Park
- 10 Nature Conservancy
- 11 Pease Brook WMA
- 12 Pigeon Swamp Preserve
- 13 Pomeroy State Park
- 14 Savin Lake

## Agriculture in Lebanon

Lebanon continues to have the greatest amount of active farmland in the State with 5,000 acres (50 farms) permanently preserved and an additional 4,000+ acres of farmland unprotected.

At last count, Lebanon had 158 farms, including a variety of large-and-small-scale agriculture. On the large side are Hillandale Farm with almost 2 million chickens (New England's largest egg farm) and Prides Corner Farms (New England largest wholesale nursery).

The Town has a number of dairy farms (7 cow, 2 goat, 1 sheep) and is home to the headquarters of *The Farmers Cow*. In addition, there are equine facilities, llama farms, farm stands, vegetable farms and CSAs, and CT's newest winery *Lebanon Green Vineyards*. There are also corn and hay lots that support these and other farm endeavors.

Lebanon supports agriculture in a variety of ways, from running a farmers market to adopting policies and regulations that are

supportive of farming. In addition, the town has set aside funds annually since 2007 to preserve farmland and open space.

Since 2007 Lebanon has expended \$343,600 to preserve 2,100+/- acres of farmland. In return, Lebanon families have received almost \$9M from our Federal, State and non-profit partners and donated \$2M in land value to preserve their land.

Lebanon's local cost share has been \$164 an acre or less than 4% of the total land preservation cost.

For every dollar spent locally on land preservation \$26 has been paid out to farm property owners.

Hundreds of new homes and additional new roads could have been developed on these properties, resulting in *additional and ongoing* municipal service costs -- not to mention loss of valuable public view sheds, natural resources, farm/open land, and community character.

Lebanon is proud to be Connecticut's leader in farmland preservation and the promotion of agriculture!

**LEBANON CONSERVATION &  
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION**

579 Exeter Road  
Lebanon, CT 06249

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**Lebanon Conservation  
and Agriculture  
Commission**

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Jon Slate  
Howard Wayland  
Oliver Manning, Alternate  
Paul Trubey, Alternate  
Toni Willard, Alternate

Philip Chester  
Editor/Town Planner

PHONE: (860) 642-2006

FAX: (860) 642-2022

E-MAIL: [ConservationComm@lebanonct.gov](mailto:ConservationComm@lebanonct.gov)

ADDRESS: Lebanon Town Hall  
579 Exeter Road  
Lebanon, CT 06249

We're on the Web!  
[www.lebanonct.gov](http://www.lebanonct.gov)

**Scooter Hill Farm: PRESERVED**

John and Dawn Drum asked the town for assistance to help preserve their farm on Tobacco Street. The Drums donated a portion of their easement value and the town, in partnership with Connecticut Farmland Trust

and the USDA, provided the necessary funds to make the project work.

Scooter Hill Farm contains 34-acres, an 1880 farmhouse, barns, cows, ponds, crop and pasture land.



***About Lebanon's Conservation and Agriculture Commission...***

Lebanon's Conservation and Agriculture Commission is a 10-member volunteer advisory board appointed by the Board of Selectmen made up of town residents.

Our mission is to protect

Lebanon's rural character and natural resources by advising town boards, commissions and residents on ways to best protect the town's valuable resources and promote open space and farmland preservation.

The Commission meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in Town Hall. Our meetings are always open to the public and we look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

***Connecticut Department of Agriculture Support***

Funding for this newsletter is provided by a Farm Viability Grant made possible by the CT Department of Agriculture through the Community Investment Act, 05-228.

In addition to supporting Connecticut farmers, the Department provides funds to help support Lebanon's Farmers Market and preserve Lebanon's farmland.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture can be reached at [www.ct.gov/doag](http://www.ct.gov/doag) or (860) 713-2500. Grants may be available for farmland restoration, preservation and enhancement.